

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OIC-02 CPR-01 SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2724

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, UN

SUBJECT: ROBLEDO PRESS "BACKGROUNDER"

1. UPON RETURN FROM RECENT TRIP TO BRAZIL, FOREIGN MINISTER ANGEL ROBLEDO HELD MEETING WITH ARGENTINE CORRESPONDENTS ACCREDITED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. UNDER GROUND RULES OF MEETING, QUOTES WERE NOT TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HOWEVER, LA OPINION, WHICH DOES NOT HAVE CORRESPONDENT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, BECAME AWARE OF SOME OF ROBLEDO'S REMARKS AND PUBLISHED SELECTED QUOTES. CLAIMING GROUND RULES NO LONGER IN EFFECT BECAUSE OF LA OPINION'S SELECTED LEAKS, CLARIN SEPTEMBER 15 PUBLISHED FULLER VERSION OF ROBLEDO'S REMARKS.

2. IN COMMENTING ON HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO NEW YORK TO ATTEND 30TH UNGA, ROBLEDO TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULD BE STRESSING NEED FOR FASTER NEGOTIATIONS ON MALVINAS QUESTION IN DIRECT MEETING WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK AND WOULD APPEAL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE. MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENT FROM U. S. POINT OF VIEW WAS ROBLEDO'S RESPONSE TO NEWSMAN'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD SEE SECRETARY KISSINGER. ROBLEDO, IN WHAT REPORTERS DESCRIBED AS IRONIC TONE OF VOICE, SAID THAT HE DID HOPE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY BUT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE A PRIVATE LUNCHEON WITH HIM.

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3. COMMENT: ROBLEDO'S COMMENT RE LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY WAS INTENDED AS REBUKE OF FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, WHOSE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY IN ARGENTINA. VIGNES, WHO USED GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY TO HIS ADVANTAGE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL MANEUVERING, WAS FELT BY MANY NEWSMEN WHO COVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLOSELY TO HAVE OVER-SOLD HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN TERMS OF RESULTS IT PRODUCED. WE BELIEVE ROBLEDO'S REMARKS, WHICH WERE INTENDED AS WITTY PUT-DOWN FOR AN "IN" AUDIENCE, WERE NOT AIMED AT SECRETARY KISSINGER.

4. AFTER THIS CABLE PREPARED FOR TRANSMISSION, ANNOUNCEMENT CAME THAT ROBLEDO IS NEW INTERIOR MINISTER. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE CONTINUES AS FOREIGN MINISTER OR WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL GO AHEAD WITH TRIP TO UNGA.
HILL

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